



HOUSING HIGHLIGHTS

A quarterly newsletter for Housing and Community Development

PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD FOR ANNUAL ACTION PLAN

A 30-day public comment period is underway for the City of Mesa's proposed Fiscal Year 2016/2017 Annual Action Plan regarding funding from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD). The plan contains the City's short-term goals and strategies, including specific activities recommended for funding under the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG), HOME Investment Partnerships (HOME) and Emergency Solutions Grant (ESG) programs. The funds are used for housing and community development activities that benefit low and moderate-income residents and assist in the prevention or elimination of slum and blighting influences.

The City anticipates the following allocations from HUD for FY 16/17:

| | |
|---------------|--------------------|
| • CDBG | \$3,224,529 |
| • HOME | \$996,826 |
| • ESG | \$287,998 |
| Total: | \$4,509,353 |

A public hearing to review the proposed Annual Action Plan will be held by the Mesa Housing and Community Development Advisory Board Thursday, May 5 at 6 p.m. in the Lower Level Council Chambers, 57 E. First St. This will provide an opportunity for residents to comment in person regarding the plan.

The public comment period will end Tuesday, May 10. Written comments should be submitted to: The City of Mesa, Housing and Revitalization Division, Attn: Dennis Newburn, Community Revitalization Coordinator, P.O. Box 1466, Mesa, AZ 85211-1466; or, by email to dennis.newburn@mesaaz.gov. A printed copy of the plan, listing all projects proposed for funding, is available at the Housing and Revitalization Division, 20 E. Main St., Suite 250, in Mesa. An electronic copy is available at www.mesaaz.gov/residents/housing-community-development/annual-action-plan.

City Council is expected to approve the HUD Annual Action Plan at its May 16 meeting and submit the plan to HUD by May 19.

The City of Mesa has participated in the CDBG program for 40 years, the ESG program for 28 years and the HOME program for 24 years. During this time, Mesa has allocated more than \$100 million for a variety of activities, including capital improvements, housing, economic development, public services, homeless assistance and emergency shelter and neighborhood improvements.

NSP UPDATE

One house is currently for sale as part of the Neighborhood Stabilization 3 Program (NSP). The City has sold 21 properties as part of the NSP3 program, including two houses currently being rehabilitated which already have buyers.

The NSP program, which began in 2009, provides funding from HUD for communities to acquire foreclosed or abandoned homes and rehabilitate, resell or develop them to stem the declining property values of neighboring homes. All 39 homes purchased as part of the original NSP program have been sold. For more information, visit www.yourmesahome.com.

POINT IN TIME HOMELESS COUNT

More than 40 volunteers participated in the Maricopa Association of Governments (MAG) 2016 Point-In-Time Homeless Count in Mesa Jan. 26. The one-day street count is used by MAG to determine the number of people experiencing homelessness in Maricopa County during a given point in time. The count includes a brief survey to identify some of the characteristics of people experiencing homelessness in our community. Cities, such as Mesa, that receive federal funding for homeless assistance from HUD are required to conduct an annual comprehensive count.

In addition to our great volunteers, the event was enhanced by Cub Scouts Pack #756, which collected and packed 100 care packages for the volunteers to hand out on the day of the count.



CITY RECEIVES FAIR HOUSING AWARD

The City of Mesa Housing and Community Development Department has received the first Empowering Communities Award given by the Arizona Fair Housing Partnership. The award was recently presented to Mesa for hosting its annual Fair Housing Conference last September for the first time as a regional event. The Arizona Fair Housing Partnership was impressed with the number of housing tenants who attended the conference. Theresa James, partnership chair, presented the award to Mesa Housing and Community Development Director Liz Morales and said "It's important in our work to reach out to citizens to educate them about housing discrimination and the Fair Housing Act and the City of Mesa was successful in doing that last September!"



NONPROFIT PARTNER PROFILE: LUTHERAN SOCIAL SERVICES' I-HELP

Lutheran Social Services of the Southwest started the Interfaith Homeless Emergency Lodging Program (I-HELP) in Mesa in 2011 to help homeless women. In 2013, the program was expanded to provide shelter seven nights a week. There are 11 congregations involved in I-HELP in Mesa, which is 95 percent operated by volunteers.

Each night, the women are picked up by Lutheran Social Services at Paz de Cristo and taken to one of the participating churches. They are provided dinner or a snack, a mattress and the opportunity to meet with a case manager to develop a "life plan" for the women to assess their next step. In the mornings, they are driven to Saint Vincent De Paul in Mesa where they either go to work or receive services.

Homeless women can stay up to 90 days in the I-HELP program. Funding is provided by the City of Mesa, Mesa United Way and Dignity Health. Lutheran Social Services provides the staff to coordinate the program. Through I-HELP, it costs an average of \$15.60 a night per person compared to \$50 or \$60 at a traditional brick and mortar shelter. A gift of \$50 provides for a woman for three nights in the program. For more information, visit www.lss-sw.org.



GREAT EMPLOYEES

CONSTANCE BACHMAN, Community Revitalization Specialist is now a Certified Economic Development Finance Professional. The certification program is a rigorous training series that explores the skills essential for the successful practice of economic and housing development finance. The training is operated by the National Development Council (NDC), the oldest national non-profit community and economic development organization in the U.S. NDC has trained more than 70,000 practitioners and the certification is regarded as the gold standard for development practitioners.

The following Housing and Community Development employees have received service awards:

- **KEVIN WOODS**, Housing Quality Inspections Inspector, 20 years
- **DONNA HUNTER**, Family Self-Sufficiency Specialist, 15 years
- **GERRI LUNA**, Program Assistant, 15 years
- **PATRICIA PEARSON**, Office Supervisor, 5 years

TIM JOHNSON, Housing Rehabilitation Coordinator, recently retired after 13 years of service with the City of Mesa.



CALENDAR OF MEETINGS/EVENTS

SAT., APRIL 30. VICE MAYOR KAVANAUGH'S PANCAKES & SURFING. 9am-Noon. Rhodes Aquatic Center, 1860 S. Longmore

MON., MAY 2. CITY COUNCIL. 5:45pm. Upper Level Council Chambers, 57 E. 1st St.

THUR., MAY 5. HOUSING AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT ADVISORY BOARD PUBLIC HEARING/ANNUAL ACTION PLAN REVIEW FOR CDBG/HOME/ESG FUNDING. 6pm. Lower Level Council Chambers, 57 E. 1st St.

SAT., MAY 7. LUNA LANDING PANCAKE BREAKFAST. 7:30am-9:30am. Falcon Field Terminal Building, 4800 E. Falcon Drive

MON., MAY 16. CITY COUNCIL 5:45pm. Upper Level Council Chambers, 57 E. 1st St.

THUR., JUNE 2. HOUSING AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT ADVISORY BOARD. 6pm. Lower Level Council Chambers, 57 E. 1st St.

MON., JUNE 6. CITY COUNCIL. 5:45pm. Upper Level Council Chambers, 57 E. 1st St.

MON., JUNE 20. CITY COUNCIL. 5:45pm. Upper Level Council Chambers, 57 E. 1st St.

MON., JULY 4. ARIZONA CELEBRATION OF FREEDOM. 6pm-10pm. Mesa Convention Center complex, 263 N. Center St.

TUES., JULY 5. CITY COUNCIL. 5:45pm. Upper Level Council Chambers, 57 E. 1st St.

THUR., JULY 7. HOUSING AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT ADVISORY BOARD. 6pm. Lower Level Council Chambers, 57 E. 1st St.

MON., JULY 11. CITY COUNCIL. 5:45pm. Upper Level Council Chambers, 57 E. 1st St.